

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Sofia-Botevgrad Road	DATE DISTR.	1 October 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Sofia-Botevgrad road is 63 kilometers long. The road from Sofia to location N 42-42, E 23-31 is 16 kilometers long at which point the main road due east of Sofia divides. The eastern branch continues to Levskigrad (formerly Karlovo) and beyond, and the north-eastern branch goes to Botevgrad. Up to this point the road is paved with stone paving blocks interspersed with short sections of macadam. The width of the road varies between five and eight meters and is flanked by earth shoulders between one and two meters in width. In those places where, in the past, the paved road had been only five to six meters wide, work is now in progress to extend it by paving part of the wide shoulders.
2. The road from location N 42-42, E 23-31 to Churek (N 42-46, E 23-43) is 20 kilometers long. Its paving is in good condition, it is five meters wide, and has one meter wide shoulders on either side.
3. The Murgash Pass road can be said to start at Churek and to end at approximately N 42-48, E 23-46 where the old Sofia-Botevgrad road joins the present one. It is 19 kilometers long and is a well-constructed mountain road with wide curves and no particularly steep grades, although the ascent from the Botevgrad side is somewhat steeper than that from the Sofia side. The road is suitable for and is used by all types of traffic including medium tanks. It is approximately six meters wide throughout, but there are two short bridges about 3.5 meters wide which tend to cause traffic bottlenecks. During 1952 and even more so in 1953, the crushed stone and earth road surface deteriorated on the Sofia side to such an extent that large-scale road works were started in June 1954 and completed by the middle of July. A new layer of stone chips was laid, levelled by a grader, and steamrollered by a team of up to ten steamrollers.

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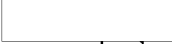
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4. The road from location N 42-48, E 23-46 to Botevgrad (N 42-54, E 23-48) is 10 kilometers long. Except for the final kilometer into Botevgrad which is paved, the surface consists of the usual crushed stone and dirt. Until the spring of 1954, this stretch (except the paved sections) was in very bad condition, but has since been resurfaced and is now free of holes. The drainage has also been improved. The road is six to seven meters wide and is flanked by one meter wide earth shoulders.

 Comment: Now that repairs have been completed, it is possible for the standard-type private car to cover the 63 kilometers of the Sofia-Botevgrad road via Murgash Pass in one hour.

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